
CHILDHOOD, FIRST COMMUNION

as to whom she made the presentation, the little one immediately replied, "To the Nun that looks like Our Lord." She had evidently recognized a spark of the Divine in the lovely face that was marred by no trace of passion. But Ellen had in her childhood the ways of a child, and perhaps a little of the wilfulness, for we are told that on another occasion when a mere tot she was denied some trifling favour by her Grandmother, for sitting in the same room with the august lady, she thought well to communicate her frame of mind, not to her, but to a little kitten which she stroked fondly, and with child wisdom solemnly addressed in the following manner, "There's someone in this room I do not like, and it's not you, pussy, and it's not me, pussy." Honesty found a safety valve in the kitten and Grandma might draw her own conclusions, and open negotiations for the peace that was to follow.

The gentleness which marked her every action through life must certainly have been acquired in early childhood, for it seemed a part of her very being, and had a far reaching influence on all with whom she came in contact. Gratitude to those who watched over her tender years, although not spoken in many words, seemed to be deeply enshrined in her soul, and her reverence in even pronouncing their loved names was quite marked. The affliction which the early death of her parents had been to her in her tender years, must have been a blessing in disguise, for it prepared her for the splendid self-reliance, or rather, reliance on God, which was a marked characteristic of her whole life. The reception of her First Holy Communion was an event of so sacred a character, that she was